

too often that tempers and passions, which before the world are kept in restraint, are allowed to break loose and run riot in unbridled license. How contrary is this to the true intent of the Christian life! Into all the details of home life we should go in the spirit of the Master, and by a consecrated walk prove to those who know us best that there is a reality in the religion we profess.

Our Young People

A Prayer

If there be some weaker one,
Give me strength to help him on;
If a blinder soul there be,
Let me guide him nearer Thee.
Make my mortal dreams come true
With the work I fain would do;
Clothe with life the weak intent,
Let me be the thing I meant;
Let me find in Thy employ
Peace that dearer is than joy;
Out of self to love be led,
And to Heaven acclimated,
Until all things sweet and good
Seem my nature's habitude.

—Whittier.

THE SIN OF LIQUOR-SELLING—HOW END IT?

Hab. 2:1-15

Topic for Feb. 18 (Quarterly temperance meeting)

The quarterly temperance meeting comes and goes and comes again to find the liquor traffic going right on under the eyes of the church with power to stop it, and with the license of Christian governments which are responsible for it. True, the appetite for strong drink and the love of sensual rioting is one of those vices inherited from brutish ancestors along with many other things, and we ought not expect to see a transformation in one generation which the evolution of centuries has failed to accomplish, but in an age as full of knowledge of the evils of intemperance as this, it does seem that the time had come to act upon that knowledge by some decisive steps toward ending the evil. God bore long with his people and suffered many things in them because of the hardness of their hearts, but the time came when their cup of iniquity was full and the stroke of judgment fell. So it will be with the liquor traffic. We say one to another, "None of my relations are in the gutter. It is none of my business," and go on voting with parties committed to license. More than three-fourths of the crimes of the country are caused by drink, 100,000 lives fed into the gin-mill every year, wretchedness and debauchery and open hell before every man's eyes, corruption in the very seat of government and we all know it, yet many try to throw a sop to conscience by saying, "Other issues are more important." The older voters have been deceived long enough by this lie. Let not the young people swallow it. God has given the young people of this generation special privileges and has prepared them for a mission. That mission is to prepare the way of the Lord. To prepare the way means not to trim the branches of the evil tree and put a pictured screen about it, but to CUT IT DOWN and cast it into the fire.

The ignorant zealot may be a dangerous man but no more so than they who are "at ease in Zion." Let us be neither ignorant nor at ease. Every family ought to have books and literature by which all can be informed on these living problems. There is a movement to get one million voters to promise to vote with no party next fall that does not have a prohibition plank in its platform, the promise not to be binding unless the million is secured. What can the young people do to help make sentiment for prohibition? This is election year and "expansion" will be the issue, but more important than expanding is it

that our enlarging influence shall be of the right sort. With over 400 saloons opened in Manila since the coming of the Americans and a similar increase in Porto Rico we may well ask how we are going to be a blessing to the nations while this traffic is continued. The voice of God's word is very clear on the subject. Let it be remembered.

The sin of liquor-selling

- 1 Causing sin, Matt. 18:6 7, R. V. Rom. 14:21.
- 2 Sowing to the flesh, Gal. 6:7, 8; Isa. 28:7.
- 3 Robs of wealth, Prov. 28:21.
- 4 Robs of reason, Prov. 31:4, 5.
- 5 Robs of the kingdom, I Cor. 6:10; Luke 21:34.
- 6 Defies God, Hab. 2:15.

The complicity of all concerned

- 7 The drinker, Isa. 5:11, 12.
- 8 The seller, Hab. 2:15.
- 9 The brewer, Isa. 5:22.
- 10 The government, Isa. 5:23, 24.
- 11 The rest, Isa. 5:20.

How end it

- 12 Live soberly, Titus 2:1, 2.
- 13 Teach old men, Titus 2:1, 2; old women, Titus 2:3; young men, Titus 2:6, and young women, Titus 2:4.
- 14 Train the children, Eph. 6:4.
- 15 Vote the evil tree out of existence, Matt. 3:10; II Cor. 6:14-17.

TOPICS FOR TALKS

- 1 Why are we responsible for the evils around us?
- 2 Why do men sell liquor?
- 3 Why do men drink strong drink?
- 4 Why does the government license the liquor traffic?
- 5 Why do Christian voters vote for men who favor licensing the liquor traffic?
- 6 What are some good things to be said for the saloon?
- 7 What is the effect of compromise with evil?
- 8 How can our young people best help to end the liquor traffic?
- 9 Can we consistently pray "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" unless we seek to have it done?
- 10 If God does not endorse the liquor traffic on what ground may any man endorse it? Let the voters answer.

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Burdens that Bear us Up

Rev. J. R. Miller, D. D., in Christian Endeavor World.

Today I visited in a hospital a young girl who had just submitted to the amputation of a limb. She told me that when she first learned she must lose the limb it almost killed her. But she spent a little time in prayer, and, knowing now that it was God's will, because in no other way was there any hope that her life could be spared, she accepted the decision of the surgeons quietly. From that moment there was no further struggle. The secret of her wonderful change was her acquiescence in what she believed to be the will of God. The moment we accept a cross, it is no longer a cross.

This is a secret well worth learning, for it changes all trial, pain, and sorrow, for him who has it. There are in every one's lot many experiences which are not easy, many which try the spirit. It is not possible to eliminate these from our life. No alchemy of grace will change bitter to sweet, pain to pleasure, grief to joy. No strength of faith will make duty always easy or battles with temptation mere play. Every life has its discomforts, its losses, its disappointments, its adversities, its keen pangs of anguish. The love of Christ neither saves the life from

trouble, nor deadens the sensibilities so there is no pain.

But when the hard and trying experience is accepted, the bitterness is taken out of it. It was this that sweetened the cup of Gethsemane for the Master. A study of his prayers that night shows the movement of his heart towards peace. "O my Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, thy will be done." The secret of his victory over the sorrow is given in his words a little later, "The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" The bitterness was gone. Yet nothing had been taken from the terrible experience that lay before him. Not a drop had been emptied out of the cup. The difference was that the mind of the holy Sufferer had been brought into perfect acquiescence.

So it will be in every phase of life which has in it uncongeniality, hardship, repulsiveness, pain, or cost, for us: we can get the victory over it by coming to it with an acquiescent mind.

There are people we do not like—they repel us. We try to think of them as Christ does, and our heart begins to yearn to help them. Then the repulsiveness is gone.

A duty is distasteful. We think we cannot do it, it is so uncongenial. We remember then that the Master has set the task for us, and at once it is transformed.

We face self-denials and sacrifices which it seems to us we can never make. As we think of them, however, we realize that Christ is calling us to enter a little way with him into his own experiences of suffering. Our shrinking is immediately changed to glad acceptance.

We come up to the edge of a great sorrow. It seems our heart will break. As we pray, however, our will sinks into God's will, and we have peace. The sorrow is not alleviated, but we have acquiesced in it, and the bitterness is past.

The old legend says that when their wings were brought and laid on them the birds complained at being compelled to carry the burden. But when they had accepted them, lo, their burdens, which they so dreaded, lifted them. So it is with every burden which our Father lays upon us—when we accept it, it becomes wings.

The Christian Life

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

"PRAYER"—Continued

Lesson, Lev. 11:1-13

III For What We Should Pray?

- 1 For rain, when needed, Zech. 10:1.
- 2 For the good things we need, Matt. 7:11.
- 3 The Holy Spirit, Luke 11:13.
- 4 Mercy and grace for time of need, Heb. 4:16.
- 5 Wisdom, Jas. 1:5.
- 6 Forgiveness of sin, Mk. 11:25; Matt. 6:12.
- 7 Healing, Jas. 5:16.
- 8 Food, Matt. 6:11.
- 9 The coming of God's kingdom, Matt. 6:10.